Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Park Headquarters

9922 Front Street Empire, MI 49630

Visitor center: 231-326-5134 ext. 328 Website: www.nps.gov/slbe

E-mail: SLBE_Interpretation@nps.gov Fax: 231-326-5382



Discover more about the rich history and natural beauty of the Lakeshore any time from your own cell phone. It's easy. The service is free, but you will use your own cell phone service and minutes.

Look for the info signs, dial 231.577.5555

Enter the number on the sign, when prompted.

Become a Junior Ranger!



Explore the secrets of the Lakeshore as you seek answers for your Junior Ranger Book (free at visitor center and campground offices). Children of all ages enjoy these fun and challenging activities. Complete Step A in the book to earn a Junior Ranger badge. Complete Steps B and C to earn a Junior Ranger patch and badge. To earn your Junior Ranger awards, return to the visitor center or a campground office to review the workbook with a ranger, or mail it to us.

Go Explore! Learn! Protect!

Fall 2011 - Spring 2012 Visitors Guide



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



Making the Most of Your Visit

Toes may be wriggling in wool rather than sand, and heads may be wrapped in fleece rather than protected by straw, but the magic remains in the Lakeshore. Fall's color spectacular repaints the hills in crimson and gold and adds a crunch to a forest stroll. Winter's cushion of white solitude quiets and opens the forests offering up spectacular leafless overlooks. Come experience for yourself.

Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive

This driving loop overlooks some of the Lakeshore's most unique scenery. Open to vehicles April-November, weather permitting (scheduled to close November 14); it's a great place to hike, snowshoe, walk, or ski December-March. *M-109*, 3 miles north of Empire

Dune Climb

No visit would be complete without climbing this 110-foot high sand dune. And, in the winter, you can sled down in the designated sledding area. **Great for kids of all ages!**

M-109, 6 miles north of Empire

Inspiration Point

With a view of the Glen Lakes, Alligator Hill, and North Manitou Island, this overlook provides the perfect finale for any trip. *M-22 to McFarlane Rd.*, 8 miles east of Empire

Platte and Crystal Rivers

Canoe or kayak these calm rivers.

Platte River: M-22 or Lake Michigan Rd.
10 miles south of Empire

Crystal River: M-22 east of Glen Arbor

Port Oneida Historic Farm Tour

Feel a century slip away in the largest historic agricultural landscape in all of the national parks. Bicycle, drive, hike, or ski the back roads to old farmsteads, fields, orchards, and cemeteries. A driving tour brochure and a cell phone tour are available.

M-22, 3 miles north of Glen Arbor

Have some F.U.N.

Join Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore's F.U.N. (Families United with Nature) program. Look for activities and programs held throughout the year. There'll be giveaways for families that join F.U.N. and pledge to spend time outside every week.

Pick up a brochure at the visitor center

Ride a bike

Bicycles are allowed on the same established roads that vehicles travel, but not on any park trails. For a moderate ride off the beaten track, ride the roads in the **Platte Plains** area.

Get out in winter

Ski the trails. Easy, intermediate, and advanced trails exist. Not groomed, but frequently tracked.

Snowshoe anywhere. When following marked ski trails, please avoid trampling established ski tracks by snowshoeing alongside them.

Ice fish the inland lakes. Standard State of Michigan licenses and regulations apply.

Pets are allowed on trails, but not on the face of the dune and must be on a six-foot leash.

For your safety

Winter conditions

Always check and dress for the weather: wear layers and warm, waterproof boots.

Check ice conditions before you go out on the ice, and be aware while snowshoeing or skiing that sandy slopes may be prone to avalanches.

Hunting

The National Lakeshore is open to hunting all year. Small game season starts September 15; bow season for deer starts October 1. Deer rifle season is November 15 - 30. Be careful when hiking on the trails. Wear orange or brightly colored clothing.

National Park Entrance Passes

A park entrance pass is required whenever and wherever you venture into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and must be displayed on the driver's side of your vehicle windshield or dashboard. When parking outside the Lakeshore boundary and entering on foot or bicycle, carry your pass. Purchase a pass at the visitor center or campground office during regular hours of operation. You may purchase a pass year-round from the automated fee machine at Platte Point.

\$10 Seven-day Pass for Sleeping Bear Dunes NL

Admits pass holder and all passengers in a noncommercial vehicle. Non transferable and valid for 1-7 days.

Free admission for children 15 and under

\$20 Annual Pass for **Sleeping Bear Dunes NL**

Admits pass holder and all passengers in a noncommercial vehicle. Only valid at this park for one year from month of purchase.

\$10 Senior Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. One-time fee provides access to Federal recreation sites. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a noncommercial vehicle. May provide a 50 percent discount on recreational fees such as camping and tours. Can be obtained in person or through the mail for a \$10 processing fee. For more information, visit http://store.usgs.gov/ pass/index.html.

\$80 Annual Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Provides access to all Federal recreation sites for a year from month of purchase. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Can be obtained in person or through the mail for a \$10 processing fee. For more information, visit http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.

\$5 Individual Seven-day Pass for **Sleeping Bear Dunes NL**

Admits one individual (age 16 and up) on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or noncommercial bus. Non transferable and valid for 1-7 days.

Access Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Documentation is required. Provides access to Federal recreation sites and admits pass holder and all passengers in a noncommercial vehicle. May provide a 50 percent discount on recreational fees such as camping and tours. Must be obtained in person and is non transferable. Acceptable documentation includes: statement by a licensed physician, or a document issued by Veteran's Administration, Social Security Administration or a state agency.



Park Activities

Saturdays	Saturdays at the Lakeshore
(except Nov)	Join a ranger for a different program every week. Topics and
1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.	trails vary throughout the year to highlight the natural wonders
·	and historic importance of the National Lakeshore. Meet at the
	visitor center first, then travel to the trail. When conditions are
	right, snowshoe walks are presented and snowshoes are loaned
	for free. Reservations are not required, but are suggested if you
	bring a group or need snowshoes in winter. Call 231-326-5134
	x328 for details. Visitor center in Empire.
Sundays	Snowshoe Hikes
January/February	If there's snow on the ground, join a ranger for a trek through it.
1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.	Meet at the visitor center first, then travel to the trail. Snowshoes
1.00 p.m 5.00 p.m.	
	are loaned for free. Reservations are not required, but are
	suggested if you bring a group or need to borrow snowshoes.
	Call 231-326-5134 x328 for details. Visitor center in Empire.
Various	F.U.N Families United with Nature
	Become a F.U.N. family! Get outside and enjoy fun activities with
	your family. Look for F.U.N. programs throughout the year.
	Call 231-326-5134, go to www.nps.gov/slbe.
	Call 251 520 5154, go to www.nps.gov/sibc.
October 21, 2011	Artist-in-Residence
2:00 p.m.	Be inspired by our visiting artist, Sandra Cochran as she talks about
	her experience in the park and shares her work. Visitor center in
	Empire.
October 21, 2011	Star Party
7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Enjoy the night sky through telescopes with park rangers and the
' '	Grand Traverse Astronomical Society. Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive,
	stop #3 (park at Picnic Mountain, stop #2).
October 8, &	Historic Beach Patrol
October 15, 2011	Join a surfman (park ranger) from the U.S. Life Saving Service to
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	search for shipwreck signs and survivors along the shore. Bring a
7.50 p.iii. to 9.50 p.iii.	
	flashlight. Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum.
October 1-28, 2011	North Manitou Island Deer Hunt (Bow)
October 29-	North Manitou Island Deer Hunt (Firearm)
November 6, 2011	Apply to park for permit.
	Fee Free Weekend - Veteran's Day
November 11-13, 2011	
November 11-13, 2011 April 14-22, 2012	National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day

For more information on any special event, contact 231-362-5134; visit the website, www.nps.gov/slbe; or find us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/sbdnl.

Academic School Groups

An educational fee waiver is available for bona fide groups that apply prior to their visit. Call 231-326-5134 or visit the website: www.nps.gov/slbe.

Commercial Vehicle Fees

Commercial venicle ree										
Vehicle	Capacity	Fee								
Sedans	1-6	\$25.0								
Van	7-15	\$40								
Minibus	16-25	\$40								
Motorcoach	26+	\$100								
*Sedans-\$25.00 c	ommercial fee plus \$5.	.00 per perso								

fee for each passenger

Reserving Campsites

To make reservations, visit http://www.recreation. gov, or the Park website at www.nps.gov/slbe, or phone 1-877-444-6777. Reservations for Platte River campsites from Memorial Day until October 1st are accepted six months in advance. For group sites from May until October 1st, reservations are accepted one year in advance. A \$3 per night reservation fee is added by the reservation contractor. Reserve early!

Trail Guide

Trail	Round trip	Description	Park Map	Trail	
Old Indian Trail	2.5 mi	Easy hike, easy to advanced ski. Begins off M-22.	0	Alligator Hill	
Platte Plains Trail	3.5 - 14.7 mi **	There are multiple trailheads (Esch Rd., Trails End Rd., & Platte River Campground). Bass Lake Loop: Easy hike and ski. Otter Creek Loop: Easy hike and ski. Lasso Loop: Moderate hike, easy to	2	Bay View Tra	
Empire Bluff Trail	1.5 mi	advanced ski. Moderate hike. Begins off Wilco Rd.	3		
Windy Moraine Trail	1.5 mi	Moderate hike, advanced ski. Begins off Welch Rd. near M-109.	4	Pyramid Poi	
Shauger Hill Trail	2.4 mi	Moderate hike, advanced ski. Begins at the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive entrance.	6	Good Harboi Trail	
Cottonwood Trail	1.5 mi	Moderate. Begins at Stop 4 along the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive.	6	Additional tr No pets of	
Dunes Hiking Trail	3.5 mi	Strenuous . Begins at the Dune Climb.	7	Directional SnowshoerCheck for t	
Duneside Accessible Trail	0.9 mi	Easy. Begins at the Dune Climb.	8	Please leave to enjoy. De	
Sleeping Bear Point Trail	2.8 mi	Strenuous. Begins off M-209.	9	Ask the rar • Always tell	

Trail	Round trip	Description	Park Map	
Alligator Hill Trail	3 - 8 mi	Begins off Stocking Rd. near its intersection with Day Farm Rd. Easy hike and ski loop: 3 mi, 4.6 mi with spur. Moderate hike, intermediate ski loop: 4.7 mi, 6.3 mi with spur Moderate hike, advanced ski loop: 4.6 mi, 6.2 mi with spur	0	
Bay View Trail	1.5-7.5 mi	Begins off Thoreson Rd. near M-22. Farm Loop: Easy hike and ski. Ridge Loop: Moderate hike, advanced ski.	•	
Pyramid Point Trail	1.2 - 2.7 mi	Moderate. Begins off Basch Rd. Follow Port Oneida Rd. north from M-22.	D	
Good Harbor Bay Trail	2.8 mi	Easy hike and ski. Begins off Lake Michigan Rd. Take CR 669 north from M-22. Follow Lake Michigan Rd. east.	B	
Additional trail infor	mation:			

- on designated ski trails 🚮 from December 1 through March 31.
- l arrows and difficulty levels on maps are for use by cross country skiers. ers should not walk on top of ski tracks
- ticks, which can carry Lyme disease. If an imbedded tick is discovered, late and time of removal in case complications develop later
- ve plants, rocks, and other natural objects undisturbed for other visitors Do not collect ghost-forest wood, any wood on the dunes, or wildflowers. angers about what fruits, berries, and mushrooms can be picked.
- I someone where you are going hiking and when you'll be back.

Camping

Reservations long to the step of the step																
	R		† †		Δ	Δ	$\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{G}}$	æ	Ē:	V		Ė	7	E.	\$	per night per site
D. H. Day Campground 231-334-4634 open thru late November		•		•	•			NE	•	•		•	•	•	\$12	
D. H. Day Group Campground open all year–not plowed	R			•	•		•			•					\$30	
Platte River Campground 231-325-5881 ext. 0 open all year	R	•	•		•		•	E	•	•	\$	•	•			electricity lk-in site oup site
White Pine open all year				•		•									\$5	
Valley View open all year				•		•									\$5	
South Manitou Island open thru September	G	•		•		•	•			w					\$5 \$20 grd	up site
North Manitou Island open thru Sept. and for NMI deer hunt		•		•		•	•			w					\$5 \$10 grd	up site

- W Potable water available in some campgrounds
- 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

- G Reservations only for group campsites
- To make reservations, visit http://www.recreation.gov, or the Park website at www.nps.gov/slbe, or phone 1-877-444-6777. A \$3 per night reservation fee is added by the reservation contractor.